TezGK

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR CLAT, AILET AND CUET

October

2026

Everything that mattered for GK this month, in one free file: 129 fact-checked stories, the background fact behind each one, and a 30-question practice set.

129
STORIES FILED 1 TO 31 OCTOBER 2026

10
TOP PICKS OF THE MONTH

22
STATIC GK FACTS TO REVISE

30
PRACTICE QUESTIONS WITH KEY

DAILY QUIZZES, FREE
T.ME/TEZGK

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

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TezGK Monthly, October 2026

Read it on your phone, forward it to your study group, and test yourself at the end.

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HOW TO USE THIS ISSUE

Headline, then the exam angle. Each story carries the background fact an examiner is likely to attach to it: the headquarters, the Article, the year, the first. Learn both halves together.

Dates matter. The date on each story is the day the event happened. Anything that can still change (rankings, member counts, office holders) is marked "as of 31 October 2026".

Then test yourself. The 30 questions at the end use only the facts in this file. Score yourself, then share the score with your group.

Found a slip? Tell us on the channel and we will correct it in the next edition.

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

THE OPENER

10 Top 10 of the month

IF YOU READ NOTHING ELSE

01

7 OCT ECONOMY

RBI raises repo rate 25 bps to 5.50%, first hike since 2023

The Monetary Policy Committee voted to raise the repo rate from 5.25% to 5.50% and moved to a calibrated tightening stance, citing inflation and global oil stress. It is the first increase since February 2023.

EXAM ANGLE RBI founded 1 April 1935, HQ Mumbai. MPC has six members (three RBI, three external), created under RBI Act amendment 2016.

02

8 OCT ECONOMY

GST Council removes arrest powers and lifts prosecution threshold to Rs 5 crore

The 57th GST Council recommended ending standalone arrest powers, raising the prosecution threshold from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore and cutting the general penalty to Rs 10,000.

EXAM ANGLE GST Council chair: Union Finance Minister; vice chair: a state finance minister. GST Council decisions require three-fourths weighted votes.

03

20 OCT ECONOMY

India-New Zealand FTA enters into force on 20 October 2026

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, signed on 27 April 2026, came into effect on 20 October. New Zealand gives duty-free access to 100% of Indian exports, with a USD 20 billion investment commitment.

EXAM ANGLE New Zealand capital: Wellington. India-UK CETA signed July 2025.

04

15 OCT SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court: right to internet access extends to children

A Supreme Court bench of Justices J. B. Pardiwala and K. V. Chandran held that access to the internet is a fundamental right of every individual, children included. It declined to endorse blanket age-based bans and called for parental controls, removal of abuse material and child modes on platforms. Held that the right to access and use the internet is a fundamental right under Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a), and children enjoy it too.

EXAM ANGLE Anuradha Bhasin v Union of India (2020) dealt with internet shutdowns and Art 19. Faheema Shirin v State of Kerala (Kerala HC, 2019) held internet access part of the right to education and privacy.

05

17 SEP LEGISLATION

President gives assent to Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Bill 2026

The President's assent, dated 17 September 2026 and reported on 2 October, cleared Gujarat's state Uniform Civil Code law, which covers marriage, divorce, succession and live-in relationships with exemptions for Scheduled Tribes. Gujarat follows Uttarakhand as the second state with its own UCC. Goa's older civil code dates from Portuguese rule.

> **EXAM ANGLE** UCC is Article 44 (Directive Principles). Marriage, divorce, succession are Entry 5 of the Concurrent List.

06

14 OCT REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Hunger Index 2026: India ranks 100th of 122, score 24.1

India ranked 100th among 122 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2026 with a score of 24.1, which keeps it in the serious category. The report, released on 14 October, says child wasting remains high at about 19%.

> **EXAM ANGLE** GHI uses four indicators: undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality. The 2026 GHI is published by Welthungerhilfe (WHH), the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) and Helvetas; Concern Worldwide co-published earlier editions but not 2026 (as of 31 October 2026).

07

4 OCT SPORTS

India finishes fourth at Asian Games 2026 with 85 medals

India finished fourth at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games with 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze medals, 85 in all. India ranked ahead of Uzbekistan, which also had 21 golds, on silver medals.

> **EXAM ANGLE** Hangzhou 2023 was the 19th edition. India won 107 medals at Hangzhou 2023, its record haul (as of 31 October 2026).

08

9 OCT AWARDS

Navi Pillay wins 2026 Nobel Peace Prize

The South African judge and former UN rights chief was honoured for promoting peace and international law. The US then sanctioned the ICC.

> **EXAM ANGLE** Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo by the Norwegian Nobel Committee. ICC based at The Hague, set up by the Rome Statute 1998.

09

15 OCT ENVIRONMENT

India adds Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel to Ramsar list, total 103

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced the two new sites, taking India's Ramsar count to 103.

> **EXAM ANGLE** India joined the Ramsar Convention on 1 February 1982. Ramsar Convention adopted 2 February 1971 in Ramsar, Iran; in force 1975.

10

6 OCT APPOINTMENTS

Three High Court Chief Justices appointed Supreme Court judges

The President appointed Sunita Agarwal (Gujarat HC), Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya (Delhi HC) and Aparesh Kumar Singh (Telangana HC) on a Collegium recommendation of 28 September.

> **EXAM ANGLE** SC judges retire at 65, HC judges at 62. Collegium for SC appointments: CJI and four senior-most judges.

01 SECTION 01 Polity and courts

17 STORIES

17 SEP LEGISLATION

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EXAM ANGLE UCC is Article 44 (Directive Principles). Marriage, divorce, succession are Entry 5 of the Concurrent List.

1 OCT LEGISLATION

Bankers' Books Evidence Act 2026 replaces the 1891 law

A new statute governing how bank records are proved in court came into force on 1 October 2026. It covers physical and digital records and standardises certification of copies.

EXAM ANGLE BNSS 2023 replaced the CrPC 1973. Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 replaced the Indian Evidence Act 1872.

3 OCT POLITY

Uttarakhand final electoral roll after SIR has 71.59 lakh voters

Uttarakhand published its final electoral roll on 3 October 2026 after the Special Intensive Revision, listing 71,58,949 voters, about 8 lakh fewer than the roll at the start of the exercise.

EXAM ANGLE ECI derives power from Article 324. Electoral rolls governed by RP Act 1950 and Registration of Electors Rules 1960.

5 OCT SUPREME COURT

CJI says Supreme Court never approved altered Form 6

CJI Surya Kant said the Court had not cleared any modified Form 6 and would check Election Commission records on who changed it, during SIR litigation.

EXAM ANGLE Form 6A is for overseas Indian electors. Voting age was lowered to 18 by the 61st Amendment (1988).

7 OCT POLITY

PM Modi completes 25 years as head of government

Narendra Modi marked 25 unbroken years in office as head of government, from becoming Gujarat CM on 7 October 2001. The Union Cabinet passed a resolution of congratulation.

EXAM ANGLE Modi was Gujarat CM until May 2014. Modi is the first PM born after Independence.

8 OCT LEGISLATION

CAPF (General Administration) Act 2026 comes into force

The Home Ministry notified commencement on 8 October. The law fixes IPS deputation shares in CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB leadership posts. 50% of Inspector General posts to be filled by IPS deputation. The Act is under challenge in the Supreme Court.

EXAM ANGLE BSF was raised in 1965; CRPF traces to the Crown Representative's Police of 1939. Assam Rifles is under the Ministry of Home Affairs, with operational control by the Army.

11 OCT POLITY

Explainer: how the Election Commission became a three-member body in 1993

Renewed debate recalled the ECI's creation on 25 January 1950 as a single-member body and its permanent expansion on 1 October 1993.

EXAM ANGLE Sukumar Sen was the first Chief Election Commissioner. National Voters' Day is 25 January.

12 OCT POLITY

RTI Act completes 21 years; 3.85 lakh cases pending

The Right to Information Act completed 21 years on 12 October 2026. A Satark Nagrik Sangathan report found about 3.85 lakh appeals and complaints pending across 28 information commissions as of 30 June 2026.

EXAM ANGLE RTI Act came fully into force on 12 October 2005; Central Information Commission constituted that day. Information is due in 30 days, and 48 hours where life or liberty is concerned (Sec 7).

15 OCT SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court: conversion alone does not carry over backward class status

A Supreme Court bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Shree Chandrashekhar dismissed Tamil Nadu's appeal against the Madras High Court order striking down GO 31 of 2024. It held that conversion to Islam alone does not make a person a member of the notified backward class Muslim communities.

EXAM ANGLE Art 16(4) allows reservation for backward classes not adequately represented. Art 341 empowers the President to specify Scheduled Castes.

15 OCT SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court: right to internet access extends to children

A Supreme Court bench of Justices J. B. Pardiwala and K. V. Chandran held that access to the internet is a fundamental right of every individual, children included. It declined to endorse blanket age-based bans and called for parental controls, removal of abuse material and child modes on platforms. Held that the right to access and use the internet is a fundamental right under Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a), and children enjoy it too.

EXAM ANGLE Anuradha Bhasin v Union of India (2020) dealt with internet shutdowns and Art 19. Faheema Shirin v State of Kerala (Kerala HC, 2019) held internet access part of the right to education and privacy.

18 OCT POLITY

CJI Surya Kant inaugurates first High Court bench in Leh

CJI Surya Kant inaugurated the Ladakh bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Leh on 18 October 2026. Hearings begin on 21 October.

EXAM ANGLE Art 214 provides a High Court for each state. Art 241 lets Parliament constitute a High Court for a Union Territory by law.

19 OCT POLITY

CCPA delists 3,940 seller entries for regulated explosives from seven platforms

The consumer regulator acted on online sales of ammonium nitrate, PETN, picric acid and gunpowder. CCPA announced on 19 October 2026 that 3,940 seller and listing entries were delisted from seven platforms.

EXAM ANGLE CCPA created under Consumer Protection Act 2019. Explosives Act 1884; Ammonium Nitrate Rules 2012.

21 OCT POLITY

Ladakh LG notifies 100 constituencies for eight hill development councils

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena notified 100 constituencies for Ladakh's eight Autonomous Hill Development Councils under the LAHDC (Amendment) Regulation, 2026, nearly doubling the earlier 52 seats. The apportionment uses panchayat halqas and municipal wards as units, weighted by electors and area.

EXAM ANGLE Ladakh became a Union Territory without a legislature on 31 October 2019 under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. The Leh hill council was formed in 1995 and the Kargil hill council in 2003.

24 OCT POLITY

Sajjan Singh Yadav named Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir

The Union Home Ministry on 24 October 2026 appointed Sajjan Singh Yadav, a 1995-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, as Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, from 1 November 2026 or the date he joins, whichever is later. He succeeds Atal Dulloo, who retires on 31 October. He has not served in J&K before; he is currently Additional Chief Secretary and CEO of the Delhi Jal Board.

EXAM ANGLE AGMUT stands for Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories; it is a joint cadre for IAS and IPS officers.

27 OCT POLITY

Supreme Court seeks Centre's reply to news publishers' challenge to the DPDP Act

The Supreme Court on 27 October 2026 issued notice to the Centre on a petition by the Digital News Publishers Association challenging the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and its Rules. The publishers argue the law could shut newsrooms. On 28 October Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said journalistic freedom stays safeguarded and the government is open to suggestions.

EXAM ANGLE The Digital Personal Data Protection Act was passed in 2023.

29 OCT POLITY

Kerala High Court strikes down rule barring women from toddy shops (August ruling, reported now)

Reported on 29 and 30 October 2026: the Kerala High Court (Justice P. Gopinath) struck down Rule 7(37) of the Kerala Abkari Shops Disposal Rules, 2002, which barred employing women in toddy shops. The court held it violates the constitutional rights to equality, to carry on a trade and against discrimination, and said the State must ensure a safe workplace rather than ban women from the work. The ruling itself was given earlier (an August ruling, per The Indian Express).

EXAM ANGLE Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality before the law; Article 15 bars discrimination on grounds of sex; Article 19(1)(g) protects the freedom to practise any profession or trade.

30 OCT POLITY

Supreme Court names Justice Ranjana Desai sole mediator in KG basin gas dispute

On 30 October 2026 the Supreme Court appointed former apex court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai as sole mediator in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin gas migration dispute between Reliance Industries and its consortium partners and the Union government. The bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi said the parties could not find a solution themselves, and allowed the mediator two domain experts.

EXAM ANGLE In mediation a neutral third person helps the parties reach their own settlement; the mediator does not give a binding verdict.

02 SECTION 02 Economy

18 STORIES

1 OCT ECONOMY

NABKISAN lists India's first WASH social bond on NSE

The Rs 180 crore, five-year bond at 8.10% was oversubscribed 1.8 times and rated AAA. NABKISAN Finance Ltd (a NABARD subsidiary) listed India's first social bond dedicated to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) on the NSE on 1 October 2026.

EXAM ANGLE WASH = Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. NABARD founded 1982, HQ Mumbai.

2 OCT ECONOMY

G7 agrees to release 100 million barrels of oil

G7 states agreed a coordinated emergency stock release to ease fuel prices pushed up by the Iran war and supply disruption. The IEA coordinates such drawdowns.

EXAM ANGLE IEA founded 1974 after the 1973 oil crisis, HQ Paris. G7 members: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US (EU attends) (as of 31 October 2026).

7 OCT ECONOMY

RBI raises repo rate 25 bps to 5.50%, first hike since 2023

The Monetary Policy Committee voted to raise the repo rate from 5.25% to 5.50% and moved to a calibrated tightening stance, citing inflation and global oil stress. It is the first increase since February 2023.

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8 OCT ECONOMY

GST Council removes arrest powers and lifts prosecution threshold to Rs 5 crore

The 57th GST Council recommended ending standalone arrest powers, raising the prosecution threshold from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore and cutting the general penalty to Rs 10,000.

EXAM ANGLE GST Council chair: Union Finance Minister; vice chair: a state finance minister. GST Council decisions require three-fourths weighted votes.

11 OCT SCHEMES

Andhra Pradesh launches Adavi Thalli Baata 2.0 tribal roads programme

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan launched Rs 2,052 crore works to connect 1,341 tribal habitations with about 1,976 km of roads and 45 bridges.

EXAM ANGLE Andhra Pradesh capital: Amaravati (statutory since the AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Act 2026).

12 OCT SCHEMES

Lakshadweep declared fully literate under ULLAS

Lakshadweep was declared a fully literate Union Territory under the ULLAS (Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram) scheme, announced by Administrator Praful Patel. Special teaching and assessment drives preceded the declaration, after which all eligible learners passed the assessment.

EXAM ANGLE Lakshadweep capital: Kavaratti. ULLAS runs 2022-23 to 2026-27, aligned with NEP 2020.

14 OCT ECONOMY

Phenol and acetone plant billed as India's largest opens at Haldia

West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari opened the Adperma plant, a Haldia Petrochemicals subsidiary, described by the company as India's largest integrated phenol-acetone unit; the investment was reported at about Rs 6,000 crore. The aim is to cut import reliance.

EXAM ANGLE Haldia is a port in West Bengal on the Hooghly.

14 OCT SCHEMES

Cabinet continues NSAP to 2030-31 and renames it PM Samajik Sahayata Yojana

The Union Cabinet approved continuing the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for five years, 2026-27 to 2030-31, with a total outlay of Rs 53,428 crore. The programme is renamed the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana and the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme becomes the Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana. The disability pension now needs 40 percent benchmark disability instead of 80 percent, with no minimum age; assistance is Rs 375 a month up to age 79 and Rs 625 from age 80.

EXAM ANGLE NSAP was launched on 15 August 1995 as a centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development, giving effect to Article 41 of the Constitution (public assistance in old age, sickness and disablement).

14 OCT SCHEMES

Centre forms Ramesh Chand committee on sugarcane farmers' issues

The panel will study FRP returns, sugar minimum selling price, recovery measurement and weighment after talks with Karnataka and Maharashtra farmers.

EXAM ANGLE FRP (Fair and Remunerative Price) of cane is set by the Centre on CACP advice. Sugarcane (Control) Order 1966.

19 OCT ECONOMY

China announces export controls on tunnel boring machines from 18 November

China's Ministry of Commerce and General Administration of Customs issued Announcement No. 50 of 2026 placing export controls on full-face tunnel boring machines, their key parts, certain walking excavators and plateau-type wet shotcrete machines, citing national security and dual use. The controls take effect on 18 November 2026. Exports to countries in disputes with China need approval; others go through registration and reporting. India's metro, rail and border tunnelling projects depend heavily on imported TBMs.

EXAM ANGLE China's Export Control Law was adopted on 17 October 2020 and came into force on 1 December 2020.

20 OCT ECONOMY

India-New Zealand FTA enters into force on 20 October 2026

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, signed on 27 April 2026, came into effect on 20 October. New Zealand gives duty-free access to 100% of Indian exports, with a USD 20 billion investment commitment.

EXAM ANGLE New Zealand capital: Wellington. India-UK CETA signed July 2025.

21 OCT ECONOMY

US judge orders Meta to pay $25 billion over privacy misleading

A New Mexico state district judge ordered Meta to pay 25 billion US dollars after a jury found the company misled Facebook users about privacy. It is described as the biggest fine ever against the tech giant. Meta says it will appeal.

EXAM ANGLE India's DPDP Act 2023 is the data law.

22 OCT ECONOMY

SEBI waives margin on later trades backed by accepted early pay-in

SEBI issued a circular allowing clearing corporations to skip margin on a client's subsequent cash-segment buy or sell positions, up to the value of shares already delivered through an accepted early pay-in (EPI). The benefit is the lower of the EPI value and the sale value, is withdrawn if the sale is reversed, and excludes the trade-for-trade segment. It takes effect on 22 February 2027.

EXAM ANGLE SEBI was set up in 1988 and became a statutory body under the SEBI Act, 1992; headquartered in Mumbai. Indian stock exchanges settle equity trades on a T+1 cycle, fully in place since January 2023.

23 OCT ECONOMY

Oil India announces natural gas discovery in shallow-water KG Basin block

Oil India Ltd announced on 23 October 2026 a natural gas discovery in the shallow-water offshore block KG-DSF/GSKW/2018 in the Krishna-Godavari Basin, where it is the sole operator. The Godavari-1 appraisal well found gas in the previously unappraised Matsyapuri formation at 2,024 to 2,027 metres. Testing from 16 October gave a sustained flow of about 100,000 standard cubic metres a day, peaking at 200,000, with about 170 barrels a day of condensate. A higher zone is still to be tested; no resource estimate has been released.

EXAM ANGLE Oil India Ltd is a Maharatna central public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, with its registered office at Duliajan, Assam. The Krishna-Godavari Basin lies in and off the coast of Andhra Pradesh.

24 OCT ECONOMY

Centre says 11 crore Farmer IDs created, five months ahead of target

The Agriculture Ministry said on 24 October 2026 that India has created 11 crore Farmer IDs, five months ahead of the 31 March 2027 deadline. The Farmer ID is an Aadhaar-like digital identity linked to state land records, meant to cut paperwork when farmers seek scheme benefits, bank credit and crop insurance. It is part of the Digital Agriculture Mission. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the milestone.

EXAM ANGLE The Digital Agriculture Mission, under which AgriStack and Farmer IDs are built, was approved by the Union Cabinet on 2 September 2024.

28 OCT ECONOMY

Cabinet approves 3% dearness allowance hike for central staff and pensioners

The Union Cabinet on 28 October 2026 approved a 3 percentage point increase in dearness allowance (DA) for central government employees and dearness relief (DR) for pensioners, taking both from 60% to 63% of basic pay and pension. The increase applies from 1 July 2026.

EXAM ANGLE Dearness allowance offsets the effect of price rise on salaries; the Centre revises DA and DR twice a year, with effect from 1 January and 1 July.

28 OCT ECONOMY

US Federal Reserve holds rates at 3.75 to 4.00%

The US Federal Reserve's rate-setting committee, the FOMC, kept its benchmark interest rate in a target range of 3.75% to 4.00% on 28 October 2026. The vote was 10 to 2: Governor Lisa Cook and Cleveland Fed President Beth Hammack dissented, both wanting a quarter-point rise. The rate had been raised in September.

EXAM ANGLE The Federal Reserve is the central bank of the United States, created by the Federal Reserve Act of 1913.

29 OCT ECONOMY

ECB President Christine Lagarde says she will step down on 7 February 2027

Christine Lagarde told the ECB Governing Council and European Council President Antonio Costa on 29 October 2026 that she will leave as President of the European Central Bank on 7 February 2027. Her successor will be named by the European Council under Article 283 of the EU's functioning treaty.

EXAM ANGLE The European Central Bank is headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany. An ECB President serves one non-renewable term of eight years.

03 International and defence

SECTION 03

27 STORIES

30 SEP DEFENCE

Second ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise AIME-2026 under way at Subic Bay

India sent INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish to the second edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise in the Philippines. The exercise is tied to India's Act East and MAHASAGAR outlook.

EXAM ANGLE MAHASAGAR = Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions. Act East Policy replaced Look East Policy in 2014.

3 OCT DEFENCE

India-Kazakhstan exercise KAZIND 2026 held at Oskemen

The ninth edition of the bilateral army exercise ran from 28 September to 11 October 2026 in Kazakhstan with a 60-strong Indian contingent, mostly from the Garhwal Rifles.

EXAM ANGLE Kazakhstan capital: Astana. Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked country in the world.

3 OCT DEFENCE

IG Defence test-fires motors for JWALA counter-drone micro-missile

A private firm tested two solid rocket motors on 3 October for a short-range interceptor aimed at drones; full flight trials remain pending.

EXAM ANGLE Hard-kill vs soft-kill counter-drone distinction.

4 OCT INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine calls India's ceasefire framework the broadest of four offers

Ukraine's foreign minister said India's ceasefire proposal is the broadest among four it has received, the others coming from Turkiye, Egypt and the United States. Reports said India had signalled readiness for a more active mediating role.

EXAM ANGLE Russia launched full-scale invasion in February 2022. Ukraine capital: Kyiv.

5 OCT INTERNATIONAL

ICC unseals warrants for Taliban education ministers over gender persecution

The warrants name Habibullah Agha and Neda Mohammad Nadeem for crimes against humanity of gender-based persecution. Warrants were issued on 9 September 2025 and kept sealed until then.

EXAM ANGLE ICC seat: The Hague; Rome Statute 1998, in force 2002. India is not an ICC member (as of 31 October 2026).

5 OCT DEFENCE

India-UAE exercise Mountain Guardian begins in Uttarakhand

The third edition of this India-UAE army exercise started at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand, on 5 October and runs to 18 October with 92 personnel training in mountain warfare.

EXAM ANGLE UAE capital: Abu Dhabi. India-UAE CEPA signed 2022.

5 OCT INTERNATIONAL

Parti Quebecois wins Quebec election, forms minority government

The Parti Quebecois won the Quebec election on 5 October 2026 and was projected to form a minority government, making Paul St-Pierre Plamondon the next premier. The ruling CAQ collapsed and its leader lost her seat.

EXAM ANGLE Quebec held independence referendums in 1980 and 1995.

8 OCT DEFENCE

Indian Air Force marks 94th anniversary on 8 October

IAF Day 2026 carried the theme Infallible, Impervious and Precise. The force was raised on 8 October 1932.

EXAM ANGLE IAF motto is from Chapter 11 of the Bhagavad Gita. First IAF flight formed April 1933 at Drigh Road, Karachi.

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

8 OCT DEFENCE

India-UK naval exercise Konkan-26 held off Plymouth with INS Trishul

INS Trishul took part in Konkan-26 with the Royal Navy from 8 to 15 October 2026, with a harbour phase at Plymouth and a sea phase off the southern English coast covering anti-surface and anti-submarine drills and weapon firings. The Ministry of Defence linked the exercise to the India-UK Vision 2035 partnership.

EXAM ANGLE Konkan is the India-UK naval exercise, running for about two decades (first held 2004). Ajeya Warrior (army) and Indradhanush (air force) are the other India-UK bilateral exercises; the IAF also joined the RAF's multinational Cobra Warrior in 2023.

12 OCT DEFENCE

Ninth IBSAMAR exercise of India, Brazil and South Africa held at Simon's Town

IBSAMAR IX, the trilateral naval exercise of the IBSA countries, was hosted by South Africa at Simon's Town in October 2026 (scheduled 12 to 22 October) with India as lead nation, and concluded on 20 October. INS Tarkash exercised with Brazil's Barroso and South African ships including the submarine Manthatisi under the theme 'Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain'.

EXAM ANGLE IBSA Dialogue Forum (India, Brazil, South Africa) was launched in 2003 by the Brasilia Declaration. IBSAMAR has been held since 2008 under the IBSA framework.

13 OCT INTERNATIONAL

Hungary repeals most of its 2021 child protection law

Hungary's parliament voted on 13 October 2026 to repeal most of the 2021 child protection law passed under Viktor Orban, keeping the part that protects under-18s from sexually explicit or violent material. The bill passed 139 to 51.

EXAM ANGLE Hungary capital: Budapest.

13 OCT DEFENCE

INS Sahyadri in India-Russia naval exercise INDRA 2026 at Vladivostok

INS Sahyadri reached Vladivostok on 10 October for INDRA 2026 with the Russian Pacific Fleet, scheduled from 13 to 18 October. After a harbour phase, the ships exercised in the Sea of Japan with the Russian corvette Aldar Tsydenzhapov. The Ministry of Defence placed the deployment under the MAHASAGAR vision.

EXAM ANGLE INDRA began as an India-Russia naval exercise in 2003; a tri-service edition was first held in 2017. MAHASAGAR stands for Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

19 OCT INTERNATIONAL

Albertans reject pursuing an independence referendum

In Alberta's vote on ten referendum questions on 19 October 2026, more than three quarters of voters rejected pursuing a future independence referendum and chose to stay in Canada. Prime Minister Mark Carney welcomed the result.

19 OCT DEFENCE

Fifth India-Australia army exercise AUSTRAHIND begins in Thiruvananthapuram

The fifth AUSTRAHIND opened on 19 October 2026 at the Foreign Training Node in Thiruvananthapuram and runs to 1 November. About 120 soldiers from each army, the Indian contingent led by the Garhwal Rifles and the Australian by 13 Brigade, train for joint sub-conventional operations in island and coastal settings. New Zealand sent an observer delegation for the first time.

EXAM ANGLE AUSTRAHIND is the India-Australia army exercise; AUSINDEX is the naval exercise. Australia's capital is Canberra.

20 OCT INTERNATIONAL

US Secretary of State Rubio meets Jaishankar in Mumbai; trade deal 'close'

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio began an India visit in Mumbai on 20 October 2026, meeting External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel. Rubio said the two countries were very close to finalising a trade agreement with only a few items left, pressed for more Indian energy purchases from the US, and welcomed progress in defence and civil nuclear cooperation. The two ministers also met the UAE foreign minister in a trilateral on regional energy security. Rubio travelled to Jamnagar the next day.

EXAM ANGLE Marco Rubio is the US Secretary of State, in office since January 2025 (72nd holder of the post) (as of 31 October 2026). S. Jaishankar has been India's External Affairs Minister since May 2019 (as of 31 October 2026).

20 OCT INTERNATIONAL

SCO Council of Heads of Government meets in Dushanbe

The 25th SCO Council of Heads of Government met on 20 October in Tajikistan with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh representing India.

EXAM ANGLE SCO secretariat: Beijing. SCO Council of Heads of State is the top body.

21 OCT DEFENCE

33rd India-Singapore naval exercise SIMBEX begins in Visakhapatnam

The 33rd edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) opened in Visakhapatnam on 21 October 2026 and runs to 26 October. The harbour phase (21 to 23 October) covers expert exchanges, cross-deck visits and planning; the sea phase (24 to 26 October) in the Bay of Bengal covers anti-submarine, anti-surface and anti-air drills. INS Nilgiri and INS Kamorta hosted the opening; RSS Supreme represents the Republic of Singapore Navy.

EXAM ANGLE SIMBEX began in 1994 as Exercise Lion King; the Indian Navy calls it its longest uninterrupted bilateral maritime exercise with any foreign navy.

22 OCT INTERNATIONAL

India and Poland set target to double trade by 2030 during Tusk visit

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk made an official visit to India from 21 to 23 October 2026, his first as PM since 2010, and held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House on 22 October. The joint statement set a target of doubling bilateral trade by 2030, proposed an India-Poland Defence Industry Dialogue for co-development and co-production, agreed a counter-terrorism dialogue, and called for early signing and implementation of the India-EU free trade agreement. India welcomed Poland's decision to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. An India-Poland Business Forum met in New Delhi on 22 October and Bengaluru on 23 October.

EXAM ANGLE India and Poland raised their relationship to a Strategic Partnership during PM Modi's visit to Warsaw on 21 to 22 August 2024, the first Indian PM visit to Poland in 45 years. CDRI was launched by India at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York on 23 September 2019; its secretariat is in New Delhi.

23 OCT INTERNATIONAL

Greece's parliament bans social media for children under 15 from 2027

Greece's parliament passed a law on 23 October 2026 barring children under 15 from social media platforms, effective 1 January 2027. The governing New Democracy party carried the vote alone; PASOK abstained and left and nationalist parties voted against. Platforms must verify users' ages and face heavy penalties for non-compliance. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said companies had about two and a half months to build privacy-preserving age checks.

EXAM ANGLE Australia passed the first national under-16 social media law (Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024) on 28 November 2024; it took effect on 10 December 2025.

25 OCT INTERNATIONAL

Lula wins Brazil's presidential runoff for a fourth term

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of the Workers' Party (PT) won Brazil's presidential runoff on Sunday 25 October 2026, defeating Flavio Bolsonaro of the Liberal Party (PL), and secured a fourth term as president. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated him on 26 October and said he looks forward to deepening the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership.

EXAM ANGLE Brazil is a founding member of BRICS (with Russia, India and China); its capital is Brasilia.

26 OCT INTERNATIONAL

12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum opens in New Delhi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum at Samvidhan Sadan in the Parliament House complex, New Delhi, on 26 October 2026. The two-day forum has the theme 'Strengthening Parliaments for People-Centric Development' and four pillars: resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability. PM Modi interacted with the delegations.

EXAM ANGLE At the 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in Brasilia (4 to 5 June 2025), India was handed the hosting and chairmanship of the 12th forum.

26 OCT DEFENCE

Defence Acquisition Council gives in-principle approval to Project 18A next-generation stealth destroyers

The Defence Acquisition Council, led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, gave in-principle approval on 26 October 2026 to Project 18A, a plan for next-generation stealth guided-missile destroyers for the Indian Navy. The ships are to be designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau and are meant to be bigger and better armed than the Visakhapatnam-class destroyers. Competitive bidding open to public and private shipbuilders is expected, and deliveries could begin five to ten years after a contract is signed.

EXAM ANGLE The Defence Acquisition Council is the Defence Ministry's top body for clearing military purchases and is chaired by the Defence Minister.

28 OCT INTERNATIONAL

US Defence Secretary proposes a US-ASEAN defence cooperation framework in Cebu

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth on 28 October 2026 proposed an 'ambitious' US-ASEAN Framework for Defense Cooperation at a meeting with ASEAN defence ministers in Cebu, Philippines. He gave no details beyond saying it would guide cooperation over the next several years. Singapore takes the ADMM-Plus chair next year.

EXAM ANGLE ASEAN was founded in 1967 by the Bangkok Declaration and its secretariat is in Jakarta.

28 OCT INTERNATIONAL

UN General Assembly again urges end to US embargo on Cuba; India votes in favour

On 28 October 2026 the 193-member UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for an end to the US economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba. The recorded vote was 130 in favour, 17 against and 25 abstentions. India voted in favour. Support was lower than last year, when more than 160 countries backed the text.

EXAM ANGLE The UN General Assembly has 193 member states, each with one vote.

29 OCT INTERNATIONAL

India names AI and maritime security as priorities for its 2028-29 Security Council bid

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, P. Harish (Parvathaneni Harish), said on 29 October 2026 at a Security Council open debate that AI and maritime security are priorities for India's candidature for a non-permanent seat for 2028-29. The election is next year, with polling reported for June, and India and Tajikistan are competing for the one Asia-Pacific seat.

EXAM ANGLE The UN Security Council has 15 members: five permanent with veto and ten elected for two-year terms.

30 OCT INTERNATIONAL

G20 foreign ministers meet in Atlanta, with India's Jaishankar attending

Foreign ministers of the G20 group of major economies are meeting in Atlanta, USA, on 30 and 31 October 2026, chaired by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is attending, as is Russia's Sergei Lavrov. The meeting sets the stage for a G20 leaders' summit in Miami in December 2026. Reports say big differences over wars and energy prices make a joint statement unlikely.

EXAM ANGLE The G20 (Group of 20) brings together major economies including India, China, Russia, Japan, Germany and France.

30 OCT INTERNATIONAL

Jaishankar meets Canada's Anita Anand in Atlanta; Modi to visit Canada on 11 and 12 December

On 30 October 2026, on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand. They agreed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Canada in December will be another building block in ties. Canada's readout also says Anand welcomed progress towards a comprehensive economic partnership agreement by the end of the year. Canada's PM and India's High Commission in Ottawa gave 11 and 12 December, to Toronto and Ottawa, though India's foreign ministry said on 16 October the dates were still being finalised.

EXAM ANGLE Ottawa is the capital of Canada; the Prime Minister is Mark Carney as of October 2026 (as of 31 October 2026).

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

SECTION 04

04 Science and environment

17 STORIES

1 OCT SCIENCE AND TECH

SpaceX Crew-13 launches to the International Space Station

A Dragon with two NASA astronauts, one Roscosmos cosmonaut and one Canadian astronaut left Cape Canaveral on 1 October. Launched 1 October 2026 at 11:10 a.m. EDT from Space Launch Complex 40, Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

EXAM ANGLE ISS orbits about 400 km up, a multinational project (as of 31 October 2026).

2 OCT ENVIRONMENT

Jawahar Dweep becomes India's first plastic-free oil terminal

Mumbai Port declared the Jawahar Dweep marine oil terminal plastic-free during Swachhata Abhiyan 2026, with Sarbananda Sonowal present.

EXAM ANGLE Major Port Authorities Act 2021 replaced Major Port Trusts Act 1963. MARPOL has six annexes, administered by IMO.

2 OCT ENVIRONMENT

National Wildlife Week observed 2-8 October with connectivity theme

The 2026 theme was Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife, stressing corridors. Observed 2 to 8 October 2026.

EXAM ANGLE Indian Board for Wildlife formed 1952. NBWL is chaired by the PM under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

3 OCT ENVIRONMENT

COP31 set for Antalya, Turkiye, 9-20 November 2026

Turkiye hosts the 31st UN climate conference in Antalya, with Turkish minister Murat Kurum as COP31 President. Australia's Chris Bowen has the separate role of President of Negotiations under an unusual shared arrangement.

EXAM ANGLE UNFCCC adopted 1992, in force 1994; secretariat in Bonn. Paris Agreement adopted 2015 (COP21), target well below 2 degrees C, pursue 1.5 degrees.

5 OCT SCIENCE AND TECH

Serum Institute's CERVAVAC HPV vaccine receives WHO prequalification

WHO prequalified Serum Institute of India's indigenous quadrivalent HPV vaccine CERVAVAC, which lets UN agencies procure it. The company called it its 32nd WHO prequalification.

EXAM ANGLE Serum Institute of India is headquartered in Pune. WHO cervical cancer elimination strategy (2020) sets 2030 targets: 90% of girls fully vaccinated against HPV by age 15, 70% of women screened by 35 and again by 45, 90% of women with cervical disease treated.

8 OCT SCIENCE AND TECH

SpaceX Crew-12 returns after 237 days in orbit

Crew Dragon Freedom splashed down off Los Angeles on 8 October with NASA's Jessica Meir and Jack Hathaway, ESA's Sophie Adenot and Roscosmos' Andrey Fedyaev. Crew-13 launched on 1 October.

EXAM ANGLE ISS first module Zarya launched 1998. Shubhanshu Shukla flew to ISS on Axiom-4 in 2025.

8 OCT ENVIRONMENT

Nameri Tiger Reserve gets CA|TS approval; all four Assam reserves covered

Nameri joined Kaziranga, Manas and Orang as CA|TS approved reserves. Nameri Tiger Reserve (Sonitpur district, Assam) gained CA|TS-approved status, accorded 10 September and reported in early October 2026.

EXAM ANGLE CA|TS = Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards. Project Tiger launched 1973.

14 OCT SCIENCE AND TECH

ISRO-CNES TRISHNA thermal imaging satellite planned for 2027

TRISHNA will measure land surface temperature and water stress from a 761 km sun-synchronous orbit with a three-day revisit. TRISHNA is a joint ISRO-CNES thermal-infrared Earth observation satellite.

EXAM ANGLE TRISHNA = Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment. CNES founded 1961.

15 OCT ENVIRONMENT

Asiatic lions return to Barda sanctuary after 144 years

Barda in Gujarat now supports 17 lions, easing dependence on the Gir landscape. Lions returned after an absence of nearly 144 years. Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (Gujarat) now holds 17 Asiatic lions.

EXAM ANGLE Gir was the only natural home of Asiatic lions before their spread. Project Lion was announced in 2020.

15 OCT ENVIRONMENT

India adds Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel to Ramsar list, total 103

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced the two new sites, taking India's Ramsar count to 103.

EXAM ANGLE India joined the Ramsar Convention on 1 February 1982. Ramsar Convention adopted 2 February 1971 in Ramsar, Iran; in force 1975.

20 OCT SCIENCE AND TECH

JAXA launches Martian Moons eXploration mission to Phobos

An H3 rocket carried MMX from Tanegashima on 20 October to collect at least 10 g of Phobos surface material for return to Earth.

EXAM ANGLE Phobos is the larger and inner moon of Mars. India's Mangalyaan reached Mars orbit 2014.

21 OCT SCIENCE AND TECH

RRI finds rare accretion disk around X-ray pulsar Centaurus X-3

A Raman Research Institute team led by Kinjal Roy reported evidence that the neutron star in Centaurus X-3, a high-mass X-ray binary, draws matter through an accretion disk, with a co-rotating stream feeding the pulsar. Such disks are unusual in these systems, which normally capture the companion's stellar wind. The clue came from variability in four secondary emission lines.

EXAM ANGLE RRI was founded in 1948 by C. V. Raman in Bengaluru. Centaurus X-3 was the first X-ray pulsar identified, from Uhuru satellite data in 1971.

22 OCT SCIENCE AND TECH

CSIR-CCMB identifies DZIP3 as a viral RNA sensor that triggers immunity

Researchers at CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, led by Santosh Chauhan, reported that the protein DZIP3 detects viral RNA inside human cells, changes shape, moves to the mitochondria and switches on the type I interferon antiviral response. In lab tests it helped cells resist SARS-CoV-2, chikungunya and Japanese encephalitis viruses. The study appeared in The EMBO Journal; the team is working on small molecules to boost DZIP3 activity.

EXAM ANGLE CCMB is a CSIR laboratory in Hyderabad, established in 1977.

25 OCT SCIENCE AND TECH

Ashoke Sen is the first Indian to win the Oskar Klein Medal

Theoretical physicist Ashoke Sen of the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), Bengaluru, has been awarded the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal, becoming the first Indian winner. The medal is given by Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Sen delivered the Oskar Klein Memorial Lecture in Stockholm on 22 October 2026. He is known for work on string theory.

EXAM ANGLE The Oskar Klein Medal has been awarded since 1988 by Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

27 OCT SCIENCE AND TECH

PM Modi inaugurates the second ESTIC science conclave in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC 2026) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 27 October 2026. The three-day event (27 to 29 October) brings together researchers, startups, industry and policymakers. Modi said science succeeds only when it moves from the laboratory to the land and improves lives.

EXAM ANGLE The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), which Modi said is being sped up, was created by the ANRF Act, 2023.

28 OCT SCIENCE AND TECH

South Korea fines Google and Apple over app store payment practices

South Korea's media regulator, the Korea Media and Communications Commission, on 28 October 2026 fined Google 42.9 billion won and Apple 20.8 billion won, about 63.7 billion won in total, over app store payment practices. The two firms must let Korean developers use external payment links in their apps and improve their app review procedures.

EXAM ANGLE South Korea's capital is Seoul and its currency is the won.

31 OCT ENVIRONMENT

UN biodiversity summit COP17 ends in Yerevan after overtime; Ecuador to host COP18 in 2028

Nearly 200 countries closed the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Yerevan, Armenia, in the early hours of 31 October 2026, after the final session ran past the scheduled 30 October end. Delegates approved texts on the first global review of progress on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (agreed in 2022 to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030) and on resource mobilisation. Fights over conservation money and harmful subsidies continued, and the design of the Cali Fund was left unresolved. Countries voted for Quito, Ecuador, to host COP18 in 2028.

EXAM ANGLE The Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted in December 2022 at COP15 (final session in Montreal, Canada, under China's presidency); its '30 by 30' target is to protect at least 30 percent of the world's land and seas by 2030.

05 SECTION 05 Sports and awards

30 STORIES

30 SEP SPORTS

Rohit Sharma passes 12,000 ODI runs and 200 ODI sixes at home

Rohit Sharma reached 12,000 ODI runs and became the first batter with 200 ODI sixes in one country during the second ODI against West Indies in Guwahati on 30 September.

EXAM ANGLE Sachin Tendulkar has most ODI runs (18,426) (as of 31 October 2026). Rohit's 264 v Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens (2014) is the highest individual ODI score (as of 31 October 2026).

30 SEP AWARDS

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi named in TIME100 Next 2026

The 15-year-old Rajasthan Royals batter is the youngest honouree and only Indian athlete on the list, in the Phenoms category.

EXAM ANGLE Sooryavanshi's 35-ball IPL hundred (2025) is the fastest by an Indian (as of 31 October 2026). Fastest overall IPL century: Chris Gayle, 30 balls (2013) (as of 31 October 2026).

1 OCT SPORTS

ICC announces 2027 Men's Cricket World Cup schedule

The 2027 World Cup will be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia from 2 October to 21 November 2027. India sits in Group A with Australia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and a qualifier.

EXAM ANGLE ICC headquarters: Dubai. South Africa and Zimbabwe co-hosted with Kenya in 2003.

2 OCT SPORTS

India women win Asian Games hockey gold after 44 years

India beat China 1-0 in the women's hockey final at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, with Lalremsiami scoring in the 10th minute. The win ended a 44-year wait for gold and secured direct qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

EXAM ANGLE 20th Asian Games held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 2026. Asian Games are organised by the Olympic Council of Asia (HQ Kuwait City).

4 OCT SPORTS

India finishes fourth at Asian Games 2026 with 85 medals

India finished fourth at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games with 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze medals, 85 in all. India ranked ahead of Uzbekistan, which also had 21 golds, on silver medals.

EXAM ANGLE Hangzhou 2023 was the 19th edition. India won 107 medals at Hangzhou 2023, its record haul (as of 31 October 2026).

4 OCT SPORTS

China tops 2026 Asian Games for twelfth straight time

The 20th Asian Games at Aichi-Nagoya closed on 4 October 2026 with China first in the medal table for the 12th consecutive edition. Chinese swimmer Yu Zidi and Thai sprinter Puripol Boonson won the MVP awards, and Doha received the flag for 2030.

EXAM ANGLE Japan previously hosted the Asian Games at Tokyo 1958 and Hiroshima 1994. The Asian Games were first held in New Delhi in 1951.

4 OCT SPORTS

Asian Games close in Nagoya; Doha to host 2030 edition

The 20th Asian Games ended on 4 October with the flag handed to Doha, which hosted in 2006 and will host again in 2030. Closing ceremony on 4 October 2026 in Nagoya at Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium.

EXAM ANGLE Qatar previously hosted the Asian Games at Doha 2006 (15th edition). OCA headquarters: Kuwait City.

4 OCT SPORTS

India secures LA28 quotas in hockey and archery through Asian Games results

Both hockey teams won gold and qualified, and archers secured quota places including compound mixed team. Men's hockey beat Malaysia 5-1 in the final; women beat China 1-0, ending a 44-year wait for Asian Games gold.

EXAM ANGLE LA 2028 will be the third Olympics hosted by Los Angeles (1932, 1984). Compound archery makes its Olympic debut at LA 2028.

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

5 OCT AWARDS

Deisseroth, Hegemann and Nagel win 2026 Nobel in Medicine

The prize honours discovery of light-gated ion channels and optogenetics, which lets scientists switch specific neurons on or off with light.

EXAM ANGLE Medicine Nobel awarded by Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm. Nobel Prizes first awarded 1901.

6 OCT AWARDS

IOA names Kumkum Mohod and Sujeet Kalkal first winners of new awards

The IOA's new Jaspal Rana Award went to archer Kumkum Mohod and the Raja Randhir Singh Award to wrestler Sujeet Kalkal for the Asian Games.

EXAM ANGLE Jaspal Rana is an Indian pistol shooter and Asian Games gold medallist. Raja Randhir Singh was a five-time Olympian shooter, long-time IOA secretary general, and Olympic Council of Asia president (the first Indian in the post, from 2024).

6 OCT AWARDS

Francis Halzen wins 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for neutrino astronomy

The award recognises his role in the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy astrophysical neutrinos.

EXAM ANGLE The IceCube Neutrino Observatory is at the South Pole. The Physics Nobel is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

6 OCT SPORTS

Messi plays farewell match for Argentina, 3-0 vs Benin

Lionel Messi bowed out of international football in Buenos Aires with a goal and two assists. Argentina beat Benin 3-0 at the Monumental, Buenos Aires, on 6 October 2026 in Messi's final match for the national team.

EXAM ANGLE Argentina won the 2022 World Cup in Qatar beating France on penalties. Messi won the Copa America in 2021 and 2024.

7 OCT AWARDS

Kagan and Soai win 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai were recognised for non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric synthesis, which explain how handedness of molecules can amplify.

EXAM ANGLE Chirality: molecules exist as mirror-image forms. Autocatalysis: product speeds up its own formation.

7 OCT AWARDS

Mahesh Kakde of IISc wins 2026 Ramanujan Prize

The IISc Bengaluru mathematician was honoured for work in algebraic number theory, including noncommutative Iwasawa theory.

EXAM ANGLE ICTP is in Trieste, Italy. Srinivasa Ramanujan born 22 December 1887 (National Mathematics Day).

8 OCT AWARDS

Anne Carson wins 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature

The Canadian poet, essayist and translator was cited for inventive work in dialogue with the classical tradition. Carson is 76.

EXAM ANGLE The Literature Nobel is awarded by the Swedish Academy. The 2025 Literature laureate was Laszlo Krasznahorkai.

9 OCT AWARDS

Navi Pillay wins 2026 Nobel Peace Prize

The South African judge and former UN rights chief was honoured for promoting peace and international law. The US then sanctioned the ICC.

EXAM ANGLE Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo by the Norwegian Nobel Committee. ICC based at The Hague, set up by the Rome Statute 1998.

12 OCT AWARDS

Robert Hall and Michael Woodford win 2026 Economics Nobel

The prize recognises microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation, relevant to how central banks and governments manage inflation and jobs.

EXAM ANGLE The Economics prize was established in 1968 by Sweden's central bank and is not in Nobel's will. First awarded in 1969 to Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen.

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

12 OCT AWARDS

Sunil Bharti Mittal to receive France's Legion of Honour

President Macron conferred the rank of Knight; the ceremony is set for 28 October 2026 in New Delhi. President Macron named Sunil Bharti Mittal a Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion of Honour, announced 12 October 2026.

EXAM ANGLE Legion of Honour founded by Napoleon in 1802. Five ranks: Knight, Officer, Commander, Grand Officer, Grand Cross.

15 OCT AWARDS

Mizoram strawberry farmer honoured by FAO as one of 100 Women Heroes

Mari ZT Lalrithangi was recognised at the World Food Forum in Rome; Maharashtra's Priyanka Mahesh Shelke was the other Indian awardee.

EXAM ANGLE FAO founded 16 October 1945 at Quebec, HQ Rome. FAO Director-General: Qu Dongyu (as of 31 October 2026).

15 OCT SPORTS

Vishvajit More wins India's first U23 Greco-Roman world final silver

The 22-year-old lost 13-12 to Georgia's Koba Karumidze in the 55 kg final in Las Vegas. Vishvajit More won silver in the 55 kg Greco-Roman final at the U23 World Championships, Las Vegas, on 15 October 2026.

EXAM ANGLE UWW is based in Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland. Greco-Roman bans holds below the waist.

18 OCT SPORTS

Fifth Asian Para Games open in Nagoya with 281-member Indian contingent

The fifth Asian Para Games opened in Aichi-Nagoya on 18 October 2026 and run to 24 October. India fielded a 281-member contingent with 168 athletes in 11 disciplines, aiming for about 100 medals after its record 111 at Hangzhou.

EXAM ANGLE The Asian Para Games were first held in Guangzhou in 2010.

19 OCT BOOKS AND CULTURE

Dussehra brings focus on India's UNESCO intangible heritage elements

India has 16 inscribed elements including Deepavali (2025); Ramlila (2008 list), Kolkata Durga Puja (2021) and Garba (2023) are included.

EXAM ANGLE UNESCO ICH Convention adopted 2003; India ratified 2005. Ramlila proclaimed Masterpiece 2005, listed 2008.

19 OCT AWARDS

Sangeet Natak Akademi honours 106 young artists with Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

The 2024-25 awards for artists up to 40 carry Rs 25,000, a Tamrapatra and an angavastram, conferred by Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 19 October.

EXAM ANGLE Bismillah Khan was a shehnai maestro and Bharat Ratna (2001). Sangeet Natak Akademi was the first national academy of arts, set up in 1952 and inaugurated on 28 January 1953.

19 OCT SPORTS

Sheetal Devi equals world record, 704, at Asian Para Games qualifying

The 19-year-old para archer scored 704 of 720 in compound qualification at Nagoya, a new Asian record, matching Ozur Cure Girdi's 2024 mark.

EXAM ANGLE Sheetal Devi: armless archer from Jammu and Kashmir, Paris 2024 bronze. Asian Para Games 2023 was in Hangzhou.

22 OCT SPORTS

Anjanaben Bumbadiya wins 400m T47 gold at Asian Para Games, Behera silver

India's Anjanaben Bumbadiya won the women's 400m T47 at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games in 59.97 seconds, the only runner under a minute, with Jayanti Behera second in 1:00.65 and Thailand's Sasirawan Inthachot third in 1:02.58.

EXAM ANGLE The Asian Para Games were first held in Guangzhou in 2010; Aichi-Nagoya 2026 is the fifth edition (Incheon 2014, Jakarta 2018, Hangzhou 2023 in between). T47 is a track class for athletes with an upper-limb impairment.

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

22 OCT AWARDS

International Criminal Court wins the 2026 Sakharov Prize

European Parliament President Roberta Metsola announced in Strasbourg that the 2026 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought goes to the International Criminal Court and its officials. The award comes less than two weeks after the US announced sanctions on the court and after former ICC judge Navi Pillay won the Nobel Peace Prize. The ceremony is in Strasbourg during the December plenary.

EXAM ANGLE The ICC sits in The Hague and was created by the Rome Statute of 1998, in force from 1 July 2002. India and the United States are not parties to the Rome Statute.

23 OCT SPORTS

Harmeet Desai and Yashaswini Ghorpade win India's first Asian TT mixed doubles medal since 1954

At the 29th ITTF-ATTU Asian Table Tennis Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, India's Harmeet Desai and Yashaswini Ghorpade won the mixed doubles bronze on 23 October 2026, India's first medal in that event at the continental championships since 1954. They beat South Korea's Park Ganghyeon and Lee Daeun 3-2 in the quarterfinal and lost the semifinal 0-3 to Japan's Sora Matsushima and Miwa Harimoto.

EXAM ANGLE The Asian Table Tennis Championships are organised by the Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU), founded in 1972.

23 OCT SPORTS

Inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship begins in Ahmedabad

The first Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship opened on 23 October 2026 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad and runs to 31 October. Thirteen men's teams play in two groups and ten women's teams in two pools of five; semifinals are on 30 October and the finals on 31 October. India's men are led by Surjeet Singh with Naveen Kumar as vice-captain; Nidhi Sharma captains the women. The championship is a standalone event, not part of the Commonwealth Games.

EXAM ANGLE Ahmedabad was confirmed as host of the 2030 Commonwealth Games (the centenary edition) by the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow on 26 November 2025; India last hosted in Delhi in 2010.

23 OCT SPORTS

Nitesh Kumar and Naveen Sivakumar win para badminton gold at Asian Para Games

At the Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, Nitesh Kumar won the men's singles SL3 gold on 23 October 2026, beating fellow Indian and two-time Asian Para Games champion Pramod Bhagat 21-18, 21-16 in an all-Indian final. Naveen Sivakumar took the SL4 gold, defeating Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan 21-9, 21-17. Thulasimathi Murugesan and Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan won silver medals in women's events.

EXAM ANGLE Nitesh Kumar won the men's singles SL3 gold at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, beating Daniel Bethell of Great Britain; Pramod Bhagat had won the same event at Tokyo 2020, when para badminton made its Paralympic debut.

23 OCT SPORTS

India ends Asian Para Games with a record 114 medals, fourth in the table

India finished its campaign at the fifth Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya on 23 October 2026 with a record 114 medals, 30 of them gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze. India placed fourth in the medal table. The Hangzhou 2023 haul was first counted as 111 medals and later cut to 108 after three medals were stripped for doping.

EXAM ANGLE The Asian Para Games were first held in Guangzhou in 2010.

06 SECTION 06 Appointments

6 STORIES

6 OCT APPOINTMENTS

Three High Court Chief Justices appointed Supreme Court judges

The President appointed Sunita Agarwal (Gujarat HC), Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya (Delhi HC) and Aparesh Kumar Singh (Telangana HC) on a Collegium recommendation of 28 September.

EXAM ANGLE SC judges retire at 65, HC judges at 62. Collegium for SC appointments: CJI and four senior-most judges.

9 OCT APPOINTMENTS

Pope Leo XIV approves Cardinal Tagle as dean of the College of Cardinals

Luis Antonio Tagle of the Philippines becomes the first Asian to lead the body that elects popes. Vatican announced on 9 October 2026 that Pope Leo XIV approved Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle (69, Philippines) as dean, elected by cardinal bishops on 8 October.

EXAM ANGLE Pope Leo XIV elected May 2025, first American pope. Vatican City is the smallest country.

10 OCT APPOINTMENTS

Prakash Rajpurohit appointed Deputy Election Commissioner

The 2010-batch Rajasthan cadre IAS officer will serve until 8 April 2030, succeeding Sanjay Kumar. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved Prakash Rajpurohit (2010-batch Rajasthan-cadre IAS) as Deputy Election Commissioner on 10 October 2026.

EXAM ANGLE CEC and EC Act 2023: Chief Election Commissioner and ECs serve six years or until age 65 (not Deputy ECs). The ACC is headed by the Prime Minister.

11 OCT APPOINTMENTS

Smriti Mandhana named UNICEF India Celebrity Advocate

Announced on International Day of the Girl Child to support girls' education, health and sports participation. UNICEF India named cricketer Smriti Mandhana a Celebrity Advocate, announced around 11 October 2026 (International Day of the Girl Child).

EXAM ANGLE UNICEF founded 11 December 1946, HQ New York. UN CRC adopted 1989; India ratified 1992.

12 OCT APPOINTMENTS

President appoints or transfers Governors of six states including Keralam and Odisha

Om Prakash Mathur moves from Sikkim to Keralam and R. V. Arlekar from Keralam to Tamil Nadu. Sudha Yadav (Karnataka), Dhal Singh Bisen (Uttarakhand), Dushyant Gautam (Sikkim) and Braj Mohan Ram (Odisha) were newly named.

EXAM ANGLE Governor appointed by President under Art 155; holds office at pleasure under Art 156. Governor's term is five years (Art 156(3)).

27 OCT APPOINTMENTS

Anup Bagchi's term as HDFC Bank MD and CEO begins

Anup Bagchi's three-year term as managing director and CEO of HDFC Bank, India's largest private-sector bank, starts on 27 October 2026. The RBI approved the appointment on 1 October 2026. He succeeds Sashidhar Jagdishan, whose tenure ended on 26 October. The board named him additional director subject to shareholder approval.

EXAM ANGLE RBI approval for a private bank's MD and CEO is given under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

SECTION 07

07 Reports and indices

6 STORIES

6 OCT REPORTS AND INDICES

World Bank puts India among top 10 emerging markets in AI readiness

The India Development Update special focus said private AI investment in India rose from USD 1.2 billion in 2024 to USD 4.1 billion in 2025.

EXAM ANGLE World Bank HQ: Washington DC; created at the 1944 Bretton Woods conference (IBRD formally established December 1945).

6 OCT REPORTS AND INDICES

Jaipur ranks seventh in Conde Nast friendliest cities 2026

Melbourne topped the readers' ranking; Jaipur was the only Indian city in the top ten. Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards 2026 ranking of friendliest cities, published 6 October 2026.

EXAM ANGLE Jaipur is the Pink City, Rajasthan capital.

8 OCT REPORTS AND INDICES

WWF Living Planet Report 2026: monitored wildlife down 73% since 1970

The Living Planet Index shows a 73% average decline in monitored vertebrate populations from 1970 to 2022, across 35,803 populations of 5,790 species.

EXAM ANGLE Living Planet Index compiled with ZSL. WWF headquarters: Gland, Switzerland.

14 OCT REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Hunger Index 2026: India ranks 100th of 122, score 24.1

India ranked 100th among 122 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2026 with a score of 24.1, which keeps it in the serious category. The report, released on 14 October, says child wasting remains high at about 19%.

EXAM ANGLE GHI uses four indicators: undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality. The 2026 GHI is published by Welthungerhilfe (WHH), the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) and Helvetas; Concern Worldwide co-published earlier editions but not 2026 (as of 31 October 2026).

17 OCT REPORTS AND INDICES

India ranks 84th on Henley Passport Index, 55 visa-free destinations

India rose one place to 84th, up from 85th in October 2025, but visa-free access fell from 57 to 55 destinations. Singapore stayed first.

EXAM ANGLE Index uses IATA data.

21 OCT REPORTS AND INDICES

Ipsos index: Malaysia first, India third in perceived quality of care

The 32-country survey of 22,528 adults put Singapore second; 68% of Indians rated care quality positively. Ipsos Health Service Report 2026 Quality of Care Perception Index: Malaysia first with 72%, Hungary lowest with 28%.

ALSO NOTE India third (alongside Singapore): 68% rate available healthcare positively, 64% trust the system.

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

SECTION 08

08 States and other news

8 STORIES

4 OCT STATES

Yogi Adityanath announces Bhadohi will be called Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi

UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath announced the new name at an event launching 112 projects worth over Rs 1,340 crore. A Revenue Department notification (Section 6(2), UP Revenue Code 2006) is the formal step.

EXAM ANGLE Sant Ravidas: Bhakti saint of the Nirguna tradition. Bhadohi is famed for hand-knotted carpets.

5 OCT OTHER

19th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas to be held in Kolkata, January 2027

The MEA and West Bengal government will host the 19th PBD convention on 7 to 9 January 2027. PM Modi to open it; President Murmu to present the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards.

EXAM ANGLE First PBD convention was held in 2003; held every two years since 2015. Date marks Gandhi's return from South Africa on 9 January 1915.

12 OCT STATES

Maharashtra forms panel on MPSC irregularities, Tukaram Mundhe named secretary

Retired Justice Dilip Bhosale heads a committee to examine paper leak and recruitment concerns in MPSC. Maharashtra formed a five-member committee on 12 October 2026 to probe MPSC irregularities.

EXAM ANGLE State PSCs are under Art 315 to 323. Art 320 lists PSC functions.

16 OCT STATES

Ladakh notifies Sankoo as its eighth district

Sankoo, carved from Kargil with four tehsils, became the UT's eighth district by notification S.O. 284 on 16 October 2026.

EXAM ANGLE Ladakh formed under J&K Reorganisation Act 2019. Leh and Kargil were the original two districts.

16 OCT OTHER

World Food Day 2026 themed Innovate Today, Nourish Tomorrow

Observed on 16 October, the anniversary of FAO's founding, with the focus on innovation and traditional knowledge in food systems.

EXAM ANGLE World Food Day established 1979, first observed 1981. SDG 2 is Zero Hunger.

20 OCT OTHER

RSS completes 101 years; explainer on its founding

The organisation was founded by K. B. Hedgewar at Nagpur on 27 September 1925 (Vijayadashami); Golwalkar succeeded him in 1940.

EXAM ANGLE Hedgewar was succeeded by M. S. Golwalkar in 1940.

30 OCT CULTURE

Buddha's Piprahwa relics to be shown in Arunachal Pradesh from 31 October

The Ministry of Culture announced on 30 October 2026 that the sacred Piprahwa relics of the Buddha, kept at the National Museum in New Delhi, will go on public display in Arunachal Pradesh from 31 October to 21 November 2026, at Tawang, Bomdila and Namsai. They travel by special Indian Air Force aircraft and helicopter. An international conference on Buddhism in the Himalayan region accompanies the exposition.

EXAM ANGLE Piprahwa, where the relics were found in 1898, is in Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh.

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

30 OCT SCIENCE

ISRO launches NVS-03 navigation satellite on GSLV-F18, restoring NavIC to four satellites

On the night of 30 October 2026 ISRO's GSLV-F18 lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, and placed the 2,250 kg navigation satellite NVS-03 in its intended orbit. It is the third of the next-generation satellites for NavIC, India's regional navigation system. ISRO's chairman said the NavIC constellation is back at the minimum operational set of four working satellites. The satellite carries an indigenous atomic clock and has a mission life of 12 years.

EXAM ANGLE NavIC stands for Navigation with Indian Constellation; it is India's regional navigation satellite system, earlier called IRNSS. ISRO is headquartered in Bengaluru; its chairman is V. Narayanan as of October 2026 (as of 31 October 2026).

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

ENVIRONMENT

The International Solar Alliance, launched by India and France at COP21 in 2015, is headquartered in:

Gurugram, Haryana. ISA's headquarters is at the National Institute of Solar Energy campus in Gurugram; it was the first treaty-based international body headquartered in India.

REMEMBER Solar alliance sits at Gurugram's solar institute.

ECONOMY

Disinflation means:

A fall in the rate of inflation while prices are still rising. Disinflation is a slowdown in the pace of price rise; deflation is an actual fall in the price level.

REMEMBER Dis-inflation slows the climb; de-flation reverses it.

ORGANISATIONS

The headquarters of the World Health Organization is in which city?

Geneva. WHO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

REMEMBER WHO's Geneva home: G for Geneva, G for Global Health.

GEOGRAPHY

Khadar, in the northern plains, refers to

new alluvium deposited by floods. Khadar is the newer alluvium renewed by annual floods; Bhangar is the older alluvium; Bhabar is the pebble belt and Tarai the marshy belt below it.

REMEMBER Khadar is the kid (new), Bhangar is the elder (old).

HISTORY

The Servants of India Society (1905) was founded by

Gopal Krishna Gokhale. Gokhale founded the Society at Pune on 12 June 1905 to train national missionaries for social service; Gandhi regarded Gokhale as his political guru.

REMEMBER Gokhale, Pune, 1905: Gandhi's guru and his society of servants.

BOOKS

The song Vande Mataram first appeared in which novel by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay?

Anandamath. Vande Mataram was composed in 1875 and included in Anandamath (1882), set during the Sannyasi rebellion.

REMEMBER Anandamath carried the nation's song.

GEOGRAPHY

Which river is known as the 'Sorrow of Bihar' because it frequently changes its course?

Kosi. The Kosi, an antecedent river from Nepal, brings huge silt and shifts course, causing floods in north Bihar.

REMEMBER Kosi brings Bihar's sorrow; Damodar once brought Bengal's.

ART AND CULTURE

Ramman, a religious festival and ritual theatre inscribed by UNESCO in 2009, is from the Garhwal Himalayas of which state?

Uttarakhand. Ramman is a ritual theatre of Garhwal, in Uttarakhand, inscribed in 2009.

REMEMBER Garhwal is Uttarakhand.

TRIBES

The Toda people, known for barrel-vaulted huts and buffalo herding, live in the Nilgiris of which state?

Tamil Nadu. The Toda are a pastoral people of the Nilgiri district, Tamil Nadu; Toda Embroidery is GI registered (2012-13) under Tamil Nadu.

REMEMBER Todas live in Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.

AWARDS

Who was the first Indian citizen (non-expatriate) to win the Booker Prize, for The God of Small Things in 1997?

Arundhati Roy. Arundhati Roy won in 1997; Rushdie (1981), Kiran Desai (2006) and Aravind Adiga (2008) are the other winners of Indian birth.

REMEMBER Roy 1997, Small Things, first resident Indian Booker.

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

ORGANISATIONS

The World Trade Organization, successor to GATT, came into being on 1 January of which year?

1995. The WTO was established on 1 January 1995 under the 1994 Marrakesh Agreement; GATT dated from 1947.

REMEMBER WTO began in 1995, the year after Marrakesh 1994.

FIRSTS

India's first satellite, Aryabhata (1975), was launched from the launch site of which country?

Soviet Union. Aryabhata was launched on 19 April 1975 by a Kosmos-3M rocket from Kapustin Yar in the Soviet Union.

REMEMBER Aryabhata went up on a Russian rocket, not from Sriharikota.

POLITY BASICS

The Vice-President of India is elected by

members of both Houses of Parliament, including nominated members. Article 66(1): the Vice-President is elected by members of both Houses of Parliament assembled at a joint meeting by proportional representation by single transferable vote; MLAs play no part.

REMEMBER President: MPs plus MLAs. Vice-President: MPs only, nominated included.

AWARDS

The Ramon Magsaysay Award, often called Asia's Nobel Prize, is given from which country?

Philippines. Named after a Philippine president, it has been given from Manila since 1958; Vinoba Bhave was the first Indian recipient.

REMEMBER Magsaysay was a Filipino president; Vinoba Bhave took the first Indian award in 1958.

SCIENCE BASICS

Consider the statements about Chandrayaan-3: 1. It was launched on LVM3. 2. Its lander Vikram touched down at about 69 degrees south latitude. 3. India became the third nation to soft-land on the Moon. Which are correct?

1 and 2 only. Chandrayaan-3 flew on LVM3-M4 and landed at 69.3 degrees south, but India was the fourth nation to soft-land, after the USA, the USSR and China.

REMEMBER Fourth to land, first near the south pole: any 'third nation' claim is the trap.

ECONOMY

Who chairs the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee?

The Governor of the RBI. The RBI Governor is ex officio chairperson of the MPC and holds a second or casting vote in case of a tie.

REMEMBER The Governor heads the house that sets rates: chair plus casting vote.

ENVIRONMENT

Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh is famous for saving which deer from extinction?

Hard-ground barasingha (swamp deer). Kanha's conservation programme revived the hard-ground barasingha, which is also the state animal of Madhya Pradesh.

REMEMBER Kanha kept the barasingha alive.

SPORTS

The 2028 Summer Olympic Games will be held in:

Los Angeles. LA28 runs from 14 to 30 July 2028; Brisbane hosts the 2032 Games. Cricket returns to the Olympics at LA28.

REMEMBER Paris 2024, LA 2028, Brisbane 2032.

FIRSTS

Which scientist was among the first three recipients of the Bharat Ratna in 1954?

C. V. Raman. The 1954 Bharat Ratnas went to C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan and C. V. Raman.

REMEMBER The Raman effect scientist sits among the 1954 trio with Rajaji and Radhakrishnan.

BOOKS

Wings of Fire is the autobiography of:

A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Wings of Fire (1999), co-written with Arun Tiwari, covers Kalam's journey from Rameswaram to India's missile programme.

REMEMBER The Missile Man's wings: Kalam.

ART AND CULTURE

The 'kalam' in Kalamkari is a Persian word meaning:

Pen. Kalamkari is Persian kalam (pen) plus kari (craftsmanship), popularised under the Golconda sultanate.

REMEMBER Kalam is the pen in Kalamkari.

HISTORY

Jana Gana Mana was adopted as the National Anthem by the Constituent Assembly on

24 January 1950. On 24 January 1950, its last session, the Assembly adopted Jana Gana Mana as the anthem and gave Vande Mataram equal honour; the song had first been sung at the Calcutta Congress of 27 December 1911.

REMEMBER The last day of the Assembly, two days before the Republic: 24 January 1950.

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

PRACTICE SET

30 Questions from this issue

20 MINUTES

30	20	Key
questions, one mark each, no negative marking	minutes on the clock, no notes	on the last page, with a reason for each answer

1. On 7 October 2026 the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to:

- **A** 5.50%
- **B** 6.00%
- **C** 5.25%
- **D** 5.75%

2. The 57th GST Council meeting (8 October 2026) recommended raising the prosecution threshold under GST to:

- **A** Rs 1 crore
- **B** Rs 5 crore
- **C** Rs 10 crore
- **D** Rs 2 crore

3. The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement came into force on 20 October 2026. When was it signed?

- **A** 15 August 2026
- **B** 21 September 2026
- **C** 27 April 2026
- **D** 20 October 2025

4. In Just Rights for Children Alliance v. S. Harish (15 October 2026), the Supreme Court held that the right to access the internet is a fundamental right under:

- **A** Article 14 alone
- **B** Article 21A
- **C** Article 32
- **D** Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a)

5. With Presidential assent to its Uniform Civil Code Bill 2026, Gujarat became which state in independent India to have a comprehensive UCC?

- **A** Second, after Uttarakhand
- **B** Third
- **C** First
- **D** Fourth

6. India's rank in the Global Hunger Index 2026 (released 14 October 2026) was:

- **A** 102nd of 123
- **B** 100th of 122
- **C** 94th of 120
- **D** 111th of 125

7. How many medals did India win at the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games?

- **A** 111
- **B** 107
- **C** 85
- **D** 70

8. The 2026 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to:

- **A** Maria Corina Machado
- **B** Maria Ressa
- **C** Narges Mohammadi
- **D** Navi Pillay

9. After Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel were added on 15 October 2026, India's total number of Ramsar sites became:

- **A** 103
- **B** 105
- **C** 98
- **D** 101

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

10. **Which of these was NOT among the three High Court Chief Justices appointed as Supreme Court judges in October 2026?**

- **A** Sunita Agarwal
- **B** Dilip Bhosale
- **C** Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya
- **D** Aparesh Kumar Singh

11. **The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded for discoveries concerning:**

- **A** Messenger RNA modifications enabling vaccines
- **B** Discovery of microRNA and gene regulation
- **C** Light-gated ion channels and optogenetics
- **D** Peripheral immune tolerance and regulatory T cells

12. **Francis Halzen won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for work linked to which facility?**

- **A** Large Hadron Collider
- **B** Hubble Space Telescope
- **C** James Webb Space Telescope
- **D** IceCube Neutrino Observatory

13. **India's women won the 2026 Asian Games hockey gold, their first since 1982, by beating which team 1-0 in the final?**

- **A** China
- **B** South Korea
- **C** Malaysia
- **D** Japan

14. **COP31, the UN climate conference of 9 to 20 November 2026, is hosted in:**

- **A** Sydney, Australia
- **B** Antalya, Turkiye
- **C** Baku, Azerbaijan
- **D** Belem, Brazil

15. **India's record medal haul at the fifth Asian Para Games, which ended for India on 23 October 2026, was:**

- **A** 111
- **B** 108
- **C** 114
- **D** 120

16. **The Olympic Council of Asia flag was handed at the Nagoya closing ceremony to the host of the 2030 Asian Games:**

- **A** Jakarta
- **B** Hangzhou
- **C** Riyadh
- **D** Doha

17. **The Bankers' Books Evidence Act 2026, in force from 1 October 2026, replaced the Act of which year?**

- **A** 1891
- **B** 1881
- **C** 1934
- **D** 1872

18. **Under the CAPF (General Administration) Act 2026, what share of Inspector General posts in CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB is to be filled by IPS deputation?**

- **A** 67%
- **B** 50%
- **C** 100%
- **D** 33%

19. **Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won Brazil's presidential runoff on 25 October 2026. Which term as president will this be for him?**

- **A** Second
- **B** Fifth
- **C** Fourth
- **D** Third

20. **Sankoo, notified on 16 October 2026, became which district of the Union Territory of Ladakh?**

- **A** Tenth
- **B** Fifth
- **C** Seventh
- **D** Eighth

21. **An October 2026 report said Asiatic lions, absent for nearly 144 years, now number 17 in which protected area?**

- **A** Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat
- **B** Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan
- **C** Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- **D** Nameri Tiger Reserve, Assam

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

22. India named AI and maritime security as priorities for its bid for a non-permanent UN Security Council seat for which term?

- **A** 2029-30
- **B** 2028-29
- **C** 2027-28
- **D** 2030-31

23. TRISHNA, the thermal infrared Earth observation satellite that CNES lists for launch in 2027, is a joint mission of ISRO and:

- **A** NASA (United States)
- **B** ESA (Europe)
- **C** CNES (France)
- **D** JAXA (Japan)

24. JAXA's MMX mission, launched on 20 October 2026, aims to return a surface sample from:

- **A** Titan
- **B** Ryugu
- **C** Deimos
- **D** Phobos

25. In the gubernatorial changes announced on 12 October 2026, who was appointed Governor of Karnataka?

- **A** Sudha Yadav
- **B** Om Prakash Mathur
- **C** R. V. Arlekar
- **D** Braj Mohan Ram

26. The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, inaugurated on 26 October 2026 by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, was held in:

- **A** Rio de Janeiro
- **B** New Delhi
- **C** Moscow
- **D** Beijing

27. India's position on the October 2026 Henley Passport Index was:

- **A** 85th
- **B** 80th
- **C** 84th
- **D** 77th

28. The WWF Living Planet Report 2026 found that monitored wildlife populations fell on average by what percentage between 1970 and 2022?

- **A** 85%
- **B** 60%
- **C** 50%
- **D** 73%

29. On 28 October 2026 the US Federal Reserve held its benchmark interest rate in a target range of:

- **A** 3.75% to 4.00%
- **B** 3.50% to 3.75%
- **C** 4.00% to 4.25%
- **D** 4.25% to 4.50%

30. According to the World Bank's India Development Update (6 October 2026), private AI investment in India in 2025 was about:

- **A** USD 10 billion
- **B** USD 4.1 billion
- **C** USD 1.2 billion
- **D** USD 2.5 billion

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

ANSWER KEY

A Check your score

30 ANSWERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B

1. A First hike since February 2023. The stance moved from neutral to calibrated tightening.

2. B It also recommended ending standalone arrest powers and cutting the general penalty to Rs 10,000. These are recommendations that need legal amendment.

3. C Signed in New Delhi by Piyush Goyal and Todd McClay; the 20 October entry-into-force date was announced on 21 September 2026.

4. D Bench of Justices J. B. Pardiwala and K. V. Chandran. The Court declined to endorse blanket age-based bans on children's internet use.

5. A Uttarakhand's UCC came into force on 27 January 2025. Goa's civil code dates from Portuguese rule, before Independence, and is not counted here. UCC is Article 44.

6. B Score 24.1, in the serious category. The GHI uses four indicators: undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality.

7. C 21 gold, 27 silver, 37 bronze; fourth in the medal table. India's record haul remains 107 at Hangzhou 2023.

8. D A South African jurist, former ICC judge and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo. The other three are earlier or unrelated names, not 2026 winners.

9. A Sukhna Wetland is in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh. India joined the Ramsar Convention on 1 February 1982.

10. B The three were appointed under Article 124(2) and sworn in on 6 October 2026. Retired Justice Dilip Bhosale heads Maharashtra's panel on MPSC irregularities.

11. C Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel. Optogenetics lets scientists switch specific neurons on or off with light. The distractors are earlier Medicine prizes (2023, 2024, 2025).

12. D IceCube sits at the South Pole and detects high-energy astrophysical neutrinos.

13. A Lalremsiami scored in the 10th minute. The gold also gave India a direct berth at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

14. B Murat Kurum is COP31 President; Australia's Chris Bowen is President of Negotiations. COP30 was held in Belem, Brazil, in 2025.

15. C 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze, placing India fourth in the medal table.

16. D Doha also hosted the 15th edition in 2006. The OCA is headquartered in Kuwait City.

17. A The new law is technology-neutral and covers physical, electronic, digital, virtual and cloud-based records.

18. B At least 67% of Additional DG posts and all Special DG and DG posts go to IPS officers on deputation. In force from 8 October 2026. The Act is under challenge in the Supreme Court (as of 31 October 2026).

19. C PM Modi congratulated him on 26 October, referring to the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership.

20. D Carved out of Kargil with four tehsils. Leh and Kargil were the original two districts; five more were notified on 27 April 2026.

21. A Barda now holds 17 lions (as of October 2026), easing dependence on the Gir landscape; reports say lions recolonised it from 2023. Project Lion was announced in 2020.

22. B The term lasts two years. The election is expected in June 2027.

23. C CNES provides the thermal infrared instrument; ISRO builds the visible, near-infrared and shortwave-infrared instrument. NISAR is the ISRO-NASA mission.

24. D Phobos is the larger and inner moon of Mars. MMX reaches Mars in August 2027; samples are due back in 2031.

25. A Om Prakash Mathur moved from Sikkim to Keralam, R. V. Arlekar from Keralam to Tamil Nadu, and Braj Mohan Ram went to Odisha. Governors are appointed under Article 155.

26. B India holds the BRICS chair in 2026.

27. C Up one place from 85th in October 2025, but visa-free access fell from 57 to 55 destinations. Singapore stayed first with 193.

28. D Based on 35,803 population trends of 5,790 vertebrate species. The figure is an average change in population size, not the share of species lost.

29. A The vote was 10 to 2, with both dissenters wanting a quarter-point rise.

AI-assisted practice material, fact-checked but not error-free. Verify with official sources.

30. B Up from USD 1.2 billion in 2024. The report placed India among the top 10 emerging markets in AI readiness.

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